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Sonia Maria Sotomayor

April 16, 1976

La Historia Cíclica de Puerto Rico

The Impact of the Life of Luis Muñoz Marín on the Political  
and Economic History of Puerto Rico, 1930-1975.

A senior thesis submitted to the History Department of  
Princeton University in partial fulfillment of the  
requirements for the degree of Bachelor of Arts.

The story of Puerto Rico is dull: politically, a succession of governor-generals; militarily, the building of strong fortifications, a few pirates and foreign raids, nothing on a grand scale; economically, the triumph of after-dinner delicacies - coffee, sugar, tobacco- over the dinner itself.

--Luis Muñoz Marín, "Porto Rico: The American Colony," p. 379.

The pueblo must be educated and educated in an honest and constructive manner. We have to begin teaching the vast majority of our people, particularly our youth, the clear and simple truth that Puerto Rico is a pueblo with all the attributes of a nationality; that Puerto Rico has a rich and interesting history even though it has had to evolve in the narrow framework imposed by the external conditions of domination.

--Andrés Sánchez Tarniella, Nuevo Enfoque Sobre el Desarrollo Político de Puerto Rico, translated, p. 12.

DEDICATION

To My Husband-to-be, Kevin  
--For the Love and Support,  
For teaching me to approach  
life with an open mind.

To My Mother, Celina  
--For a Lifetime of  
Happiness, For the lesson  
that life is always  
a learning experience.

To My Family-- especially Alfred, Charles, my  
Grandmother Mercedes, and Junior-- For you have given me my  
Puerto Rican-ness.

To My Friends-- especially Felice, Margarite and Mary--  
For each moment of friendship without which I could not  
survive.

To the people of my island-- For the rich history that  
is mine.

To all of you: For the love that makes my life meaningful.